



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
March 15, 2005

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MAINE MAN SENTENCED FOR INTERSTATE
TRAVEL TO ENGAGE IN ILLICIT SEXUAL CONDUCT

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Portsmouth Police Chief Michael Magnant announced that Dustin Buttrick, 23, of Eliott, Maine was sentenced to a term of 18 months in prison followed by a period of five years of supervised release after being convicted of traveling in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct.

Buttrick was arrested by the Portsmouth Police Department at 8:30 a.m. on June 24, 2003, when he showed up at a pre-arranged location to meet a 14-year-old girl to engage in sexual conduct. Buttrick had engaged in internet correspondence with the purported victim for approximately three weeks before arranging the meeting. The 14-year-old was in fact an undercover police officer conducting an investigation of online solicitation of minors. Buttrick was convicted last September in U.S. District Court after a two day jury trial

U.S. Attorney Tom Colantuono applauded the efforts of the Portsmouth Police Department, the lead investigating agency on the case. U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "When Congress passed the Protect Act, it emphasized the importance of prosecuting those individuals who use the Internet to prey on minors by increasing the punishment for such crimes. This office will continue to dedicate its resources to prosecuting those individuals who travel the interstate with the purpose of engaging in sex with minors. Prosecuting such individuals will remove them and the danger they pose and will provide a significant deterrent to those who may consider taking advantage of our children."

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Helen Fitzgibbon.